

October 20, 2009

John Swint

2570 Centralia Rachels Road

Warthen, GA 31094

Retired-Oconee Center (Community Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Program)

My name is John Swint. I was born in Washington County and graduated from Washington County High. I have lived in Washington County for most of my life – as did my father and his father. Each generation has tried to be good stewards of our family land. Our land has provided us with fruits and vegetables as well as income from pulpwood for almost 100 years. Our forest has never been clear cut. As a result of careful management by my father and grandfather, our land contains some beautiful old trees and some of the largest dogwoods I have ever seen.

I am opposed to this coal plant for many reasons. First, I do not want a coal-fired plant built so close to my home. I fear the pollution from this plant will harm my family and my neighbors in many ways. Many of my friends and neighbors suffer from asthma and other breathing disorders. Though I'm healthy now, I almost died from a disease of the lungs I contracted while working in Milledgeville. To add any harmful particulate matter to our air is unacceptable and especially harmful with people who have breathing difficulty.

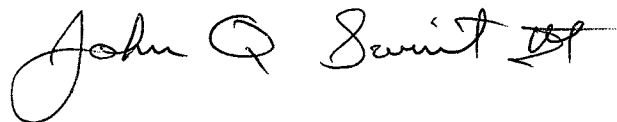
Because there is no way to burn coal cleanly, I am concerned about the pollution this plant will generate. Pollution from burning coal will be released into the air and some of the by products will be stored as a solid on the ground. Both forms of pollution are hazardous to families, farming, and forests. Our air, land and water are placed at risk by the burning of coal.

I am opposed to removing potable water from the ground and returning a portion of it in an undrinkable condition to the Oconee River.

My biggest objection to Plant Washington is that it is completely unnecessary. Everything I read or hear consistently states the demand for electricity is declining. Conservation and renewable forms of energy are more than sufficient to supply our energy needs. Money wasted on this plant could be invested in creating jobs in renewable energy sources and conservation.

As a tax payer and EMC customer in Washington County, I am concerned about higher taxes and higher electric rates if this plant is built. Power4Georgians employees have been very secretive about who will pay for this plant. My fear is that Washington County will somehow be at risk due to our Development Authority's creative financing. Electric rates will certainly go up, either to help pay for the plant or to pay for its failure when regulation makes coal unprofitable.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important issue which threatens my family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Q. Swint" followed by a stylized flourish.

October 20, 2009

Paula R. Swint, retired educator , 25 years in Washington County
2570 Centralia Rachels Road
Warthen, GA 31094

Dr. Dr. Couch,

I am writing to register my opposition to the construction of a coal-fired plant in Washington County, Georgia. This plant will be less than 10 miles from my home and causes me great concern. I live close enough for it to destroy what my husband and I have worked to protect for 30 years and what his father and grandfather cared for and protected for nearly 100 years. This plant is a direct threat to my home, my family, my property, my food sources, and my way of life.

We depend on our farm for food crops, fruit and vegetables. We have worked hard over the years to provide fresh foods for our family. We have food crops from April to October. I am concerned that my strawberries, peaches, blueberries, apples, pears, scuppernongs, muscadines, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, tomatoes, squash and green beans could all be harmed from the "daily fallout" from this proposed plant. These crops all have thin skins or edible surface areas which would have continuous exposure to substances that I don't want on my food. It won't be a matter of simply washing them off and eating them. The daily exposure and potential absorption is not a risk I care to take with my food. These fresh foods have been a source of pride and a symbol of good health as we share them with our family and friends each year.

We depend on a well for fresh water. The water level in this well has dropped too low to use it 2 times since we've lived here. The most recent was September 2008. We had another well drilled the first time this happened. After all the time^{and} expense, the new, deeper well contains water that smells very bad, even when filtered. I am thankful that our original well is usable again right now, but with the plant proposing to use millions of gallons of water per day, I do have concerns about our well on which we've depended for over 30 years.

I have great concerns about the air quality. Washington County already is close to non attainment. The air quality within 10 miles of the plant will be the most concentrated with toxins. Several families in our community have individuals with moderate to severe asthma – these are both children and adults.

I also realize the pollution from this plant will harm, not just my family and neighbors, but also people, air and water resources across Georgia, the Southeast, the USA, and the world. When I make a statement like this, locally, I am accused of using fear. With my family's proximity to the plant, the fear is real. I am threatened by this potential source of pollution and toxins so close to my home.

This is a very serious matter. Your department has an overwhelming responsibility to protect our precious natural resources. You have experts who do take seriously this daunting task. Please realize that the citizens of Georgia do trust the EPD to do what is in the best interest of protecting each citizen. Even if the application for this plant is absolutely perfect in its final form, it is your job to protect us, the citizens of Georgia. I am asking that you use your best judgement in considering the human side of this important decision – especially taking into consideration those of us who live so close –where the pollution will be the most concentrated and those who live down wind and down stream. This is a moral issue with dangerous consequences which far exceed the promise of a few jobs.

Thank you for the efforts of your department in protecting the environment and natural resources in Georgia.

Paula Swint



Good evening, my name is Mary Carr and I am Renewable Energy Coordinator for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. I respectfully submit these comments to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division regarding the draft permits for the proposed coal fired power plant in Sandersville, GA- Plant Washington on behalf of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and as a citizen of Georgia.

First, I would like to comment on the air permit.

If this coal plant is permitted it will emit a number of toxic air pollutants all of which will have an impact on Georgia's air quality. Many of the smog-forming pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide play a lead role in causing respiratory diseases like asthma. This coal plant will likely emit 1,836 tons of nitrogen oxide, which is a major contributor to ground level ozone. In 2008, EPD recorded 52 days that exceeded federal air quality standards for ground level ozone in the state. If permitted this coal plant will only add to the number of days when ozone is too high for Georgia citizens to enjoy outdoor activities.

Plant Washington would also emit 678 tons of PM10 and 453 tons of PM2.5. According to a 2004 report by the Clean Air Task Force, the lives of nearly 10,000 people are cut short every year in the Southeast region due to particulate matter pollution from coal-fired power plants. How many more lives will we put at risk by building this new coal plant?

Mercury is another pollutant that Georgia citizens risk being subjected to if this plant is built. Mercury, a potent neurotoxin, already impairs the waters of Georgia making fish risky to eat. Plant Washington would emit an additional 105 pounds of mercury each year – far more than other comparably sized coal plants complying with tight Maximum Achievable Control Technology standards. Scientists know it only takes one-seventieth of one teaspoon of mercury to pollute an entire 20-acre lake. Georgia coal plants already pump nearly 3,000 pounds of mercury into our air and water every year. Given that our state has nearly 41,000 lake acres and 2,600 river miles contaminated with mercury, and over 123 fish advisories for consumption on Georgia waterways from the state Department of Natural Resources, we cannot afford any new mercury emitters in the state.

As you know, carbon dioxide is the leading global warming pollutant and is currently under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency through the "Endangerment Finding" for formal classification as a criteria pollutant. Plant Washington would emit over 6.2 Million tons of carbon dioxide. Given that federal carbon regulations are imminent, it would be irresponsible for EPD to issue these permits without taking into consideration the grave concerns the world has about these emissions and the very real threat of regulation. Without any controls in the foreseeable future to control CO2 from pulverized coal plants, this addition of pollution is truly unconscionable and EPD has the ability now to take a stand and say no to Power4Georgians.

Next, I would like to address the draft Ground, Surface Water Withdrawal, and Discharge Permits:

This plant would withdraw up to 16 million gallons of water every day through a 30-mile

pipeline to the Oconee River. In addition, 16 wells would be dug along the pipeline to extract groundwater from the Cretaceous Aquifer for use during periods of drought. This plant poses a significant risk to the groundwater aquifer with recharge rates unable to keep up with withdraw of such tremendous proportions. A report given by a US geologic survey hydrologist in 2005 at the Georgia Water Conference indicated that of all the aquifers in Georgia those in the Cretaceous Aquifer were showing levels below the normal range due to groundwater pumpage.

Withdraws from both of these water sources will compete heavily with other water uses such as Georgia's citizens and local businesses. I urge EPD to seriously consider the impacts this coal plant will have on the aquifer knowing that drought years will return during the life of the permit similar to the one we saw in 2007. EPD should be responsible to Georgia's citizens and ecosystems by fully considering every scenario possible given then length the proposed permit is to be issued, especially as we face unusual climatic challenges with significant precipitation changes likely.

In addition, the water that is returned to the Oconee River poses the risk of causing thermal pollution, threatening aquatic life. The water returned to the river is significantly warmer than the water withdrawn. Thermal pollution impacts aquatic ecosystems by affecting the local breeding habits of various fish species and limiting the level of oxygen in the water supply.

Finally, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy would like to officially express disappointment that EPD has currently denied all other opportunities for additional public hearings on these permits. Over 1,000 citizens wrote you asking for statewide hearings and you denied all of them. It is simply negligent to not hold hearings to address each of these permits separately and to provide adequate opportunity for public input. Each permit concerns the allowance of new pollutants to be emitted in Georgia and all citizens have a right to voice their concerns and be heard.

EPD's lack of consideration for public input forced citizen groups to provide this opportunity instead. Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, in partnership with others, hosted citizens hearing on October 6th around the state. A court reporter captured all oral comments and I am submitting the transcripts from the Kennesaw State hearing tonight so as to ensure these citizens will be heard by EPD. These permits are absolutely an issue of statewide concern.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that EPD deny the Air, Ground, Surface Water Withdrawal, and Discharge Permits to Power4Georgians and in the future provide adequate opportunity for public input. There is no place for dirty coal in Georgia's energy future and it is high time that EPD embrace its mission to protect the environment for all citizens by saying no to more coal. EPD staff know as well as any of us that we have clean, sustainable, non-polluting energy alternatives to coal and allowing these permits would evade your responsibility to protect public health and the environment.

Thank you.

October 21, 2009

Wm. Vernon Tooke

2440 Kittrell Creek Road
Sandersville, Ga 31082-3904

Post Office Box 811
Sandersville, Ga 31082

Water Well Drilling

Dear Dr. Carol Couch,

I am writing to register my opposition to the construction of a coal-fired plant in Washington County, Georgia.

My primary concern is Air and Water Quality. We have been in the well drilling business for 40 years in Sandersville. Over this period of time, I have seen the water table drop. We are constantly lowering pumps in individual water wells during the summer months. During this time is when irrigation wells are in use. I firmly believe that the withdrawal of the required amount of water will affect the water table in this area. Air quality will be very much worse.

The plant will personally impact me, I live in Washington County. I own livestock and feel that the plant will adversely affect my farm and my income. I own property joining the coal plant site and I know for a fact that our property values will decrease. I am also concerned about my cows, which are raised and sold for human consumption.

I am for clean energy, but not for energy derived from coal.

Thanks,



Wm. Vernon Tooke
Sandersville Well Company

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OCT 28 2009

AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

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OCT 28 2009

AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

W. B. BRADLEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1776 N. JEFFERSON ST.
SUITE D
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA 31061
—
TELEPHONE 478-451-5363

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2009

Environmental Protection Division
Director's Office

October 23, 2009

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Plant Washington

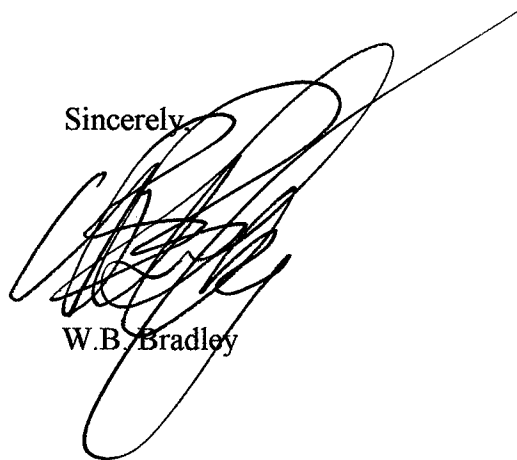
Dear Sir/ Madam:

As a member of Washington EMC, I oppose the Plant Washington Project.

Specifically, I oppose the withdrawal of sixteen million (16,000,000) gallons of water from the Oconee River (when available) and the return of only one million (1,000,000). I also oppose emission of any carbon dioxide or other green house gases.

In this day and time we do not need another coal-generated power plant.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W.B. Bradley', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

W.B. Bradley

WBB: aec

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OCT 28 2009

AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

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OCT 26 2009

Environmental Protection Division
Director's Office

October 20, 2009

Plant Washington
Environmental Protection Division
2 MLKing Jr. Drive Suite 1152 - East Tower
Atlanta, Ga. 30334

Dear EPD,

We are writing to oppose the proposed coal plant, Plant Washington, near Sandersville.

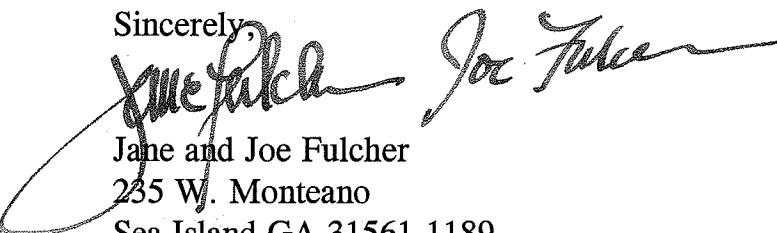
It will not only use and pollute water from the Oconee River and but also create a new source of mercury pollution in rivers already experiencing problems with mercury.

Plant Washington is an expensive, water consuming, and polluting choice for meeting Georgia's future energy needs – a p oor choice.

I want to voice our opposition to Environmental Protection Division (EPD) plans to grant air and water pollution permits for this plant.

Please deny these permits – no more dirty coal for Georgia. Let's use more modern methods.

Sincerely,


Jane and Joe Fulcher
235 W. Monteano
Sea Island GA 31561-1189

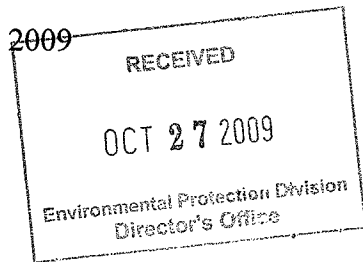
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OCT 29 2009

October 15, 2009

Dr. Carol Couch
Suite 1152-East Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30334

AIR PROTECTION BRANCH



Re: Plant Washington Coal Plant

Dear Dr. Couch,

As a resident of Chatham County, I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of the new coal-fired electric plant in Washington County.

As a downstream and often down-wind resident of the Ogeechee and Canoochee River watersheds, I am concerned about the effect of Plant Washington on water quality in these and other rivers throughout the state, and about the impact on air quality for south Georgia. I do not believe that the health of residents in my part of the state should be sacrificed on the altar of yet more growth in and around Atlanta.

The Ogeechee River is a unique, picturesque and valuable resource for all Georgians. The river provides many benefits economically and ecologically. The addition of up to 105 pounds of mercury per year to the river is shameful. Please do not add to the poisons that already are present in our waters and already affect our children, our pets, our livestock, the wild things of Georgia - and you and me.

The quality of air in our state is constantly being challenged by development and increased emissions from many sources. Already Atlanta has days when its residents are warned not to go out-of-doors due to air pollution. The addition of more lead, sulfuric acid, carbon monoxide and other volatile organic compounds will potentially adversely impact the health of our forests, our fields, our homes, our families - and you and me. This is the air you and I *breathe*. Let's work to keep it cleaner, not dirtier.

While providing jobs and other economic benefits to a few residents of Washington County is laudatory, the consequences to the rest of the state outweigh those short term gains. As you know, development of alternative energy production and efficiency offer many more long-term economic opportunities to our citizens. We simply need to step out of old, anachronistic notions of what can be done and capitalize on those opportunities.

Oh yes, there is one other reason to defer the construction of yet another fossil-fuel plant. There are some things on this earth that are worth preserving just because of their uniqueness, their natural beauty, and their rarity. Our fresh-water rivers are among those treasures. We cannot replace them; God is not making more of them. We are better off keeping them as they are.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Worsham
27 S. Franklin Creek Rd
Savannah, GA 31411

10/22/2009

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NOV 03 2009

Full Name JULIA W. MORGAN AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

Residential Address 5111 CHALKER RD, GIBSON, GA, 30810

I have been a resident of GLASCOCK county for 10 years.

I am a (occupation) Career in all lines insurance & BANKING Director.

I work at (or retired) Now retired & serving still as bank director.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to the construction of a coal-fired plant in Washington County.

My primary concern is: air & water pollution - underground water, rivers, creeks, & fish ponds which we have (4) and border Rocky Comfort Creek and other streams. we have many types of wildlife for hunting & have a large investment in them. We have a large acreage of planted pines, I saw in Europe of what pollution can do to trees.

The construction of the plant will impact me personally (define how and why):

I believe the clean air we have here now will not be here if a coal fired plant is nearby - our health is a concern. Other family members have just moved here (Glascock) to enjoy the environment of a rural area without smoke -

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Julia Morgan
706 699 4481

W. B. BRADLEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1776 N. JEFFERSON ST.
SUITE D
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA 31061
TELEPHONE 478-451-5363

Jac Cupp →
Cornwell →
FS →
Purva

September 16, 2009

Mr. Frank Askew
P.O. Box 582
Sandersville, GA 31082

Dear Mr. Askew:

I understand that Washington EMC is a member of the coalition seeking to build Plant Washington. If not a member of the coalition you can disregard this letter.

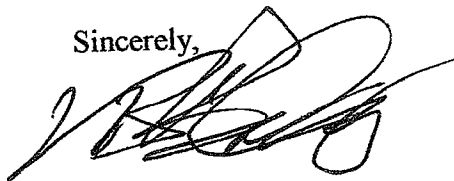
As a customer and member of Washington EMC, I strongly oppose the Plant Washington project. First, I am concerned about the sixteen million gallons of water withdrawn daily from the Oconee River.

However, my main objection and concern is the Coal Powered Plant and the resulting in air pollution. In this day and time we do not need another such plant.

I do not believe that a coal-powered plant can be justified by any means. Maybe the use of coal is more cost efficient. Please consider that in the long run "cheap" is not always the best solution.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

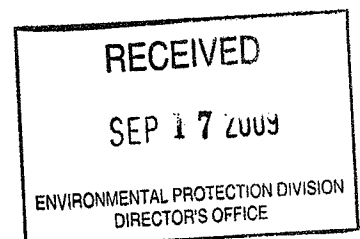
Sincerely,



W.B. Bradley

WBB: aes

cc: Georgia Environmental Protection Director
2 Martin Luther King Drive
Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334



404-775-8798 Alexis Myers
amyers@gip1.org Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power
Light
PO Box 5866 Atlanta, GA 30307

Good evening. My name is Alexis Myers. I am here tonight because I am a Georgia resident and minister and I care very deeply about what may happen to my state if this coal plant is built.

Plant Washington threatens to deposit dangerous coal ash and pollute our air. We should not be considering it when there are far better ways to create lots of jobs.

As a Christian who lives out my faith on a daily basis and takes Scripture seriously when it tells me that after God brought forth the created order, God called it good. I am required to work to keep all of Creation good. My faith leads me to care for my neighbor and for creation. I am informed in this work by 4 faith principles:

A principle of Stewardship: We have a responsibility to wisely use the resources over which we have control. We are not owners of the earth, merely stewards. Any energy solution must focus first and foremost on conservation and efficiency. Beyond personal commitments to conservation and efficiency, we expect our utility providers and regulatory agencies to make conservation and efficiency measures a priority in meeting projected energy demand.

We must find new ways to harness Georgia's energy in an environmentally responsible manner through use of renewable resources such as solar, biomass, wind, and other sources.

Justice: We have a responsibility to other members of our human family as well as future generations. We must be aware of the economic, health, and environmental impacts of our choices on our neighbors nearby and around the world. Solutions to our energy needs must take seriously a commitment to justice for all people. Coal burning power plants contribute to air pollution, water pollution, mercury contamination, and global climate change. Energy solutions must also recognize the need for economic justice. Programs that emphasize conservation and efficiency not only lower energy bills, but also generate jobs locally in the areas in which they are implemented.

Also, as a person of faith we are part of an entire
Community of Life: Our lives and choices are interconnected with the entire community of life. Our energy choices should not result in undue pollution or habitat destruction.

Awe: As people of faith, we recognize the fingerprints of the divine in the world. An attitude of awe must pervade our understanding of our role on the planet. We must be committed to an ethic that realizes and affirms the inherent value of the natural world. Our energy decisions have tarnished the beauty of creation; we must be committed to an ethic that realizes and affirms the inherent value of the natural world.

As a person of faith I oppose this plant because it does not show love of God, it does not show love of neighbor, it does not show care for future generations and it does not show love of Creation. Building this plant will harm creation and will harm the people of Georgia and future generations. I urge you to love creation and future generations by not ~~building this plant~~

Approving these permits



Regina Smith

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OCT 28 2009

AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

I hope that everyone takes into consideration the pollution that has the ability to destroy our environment and those of us in child-bearing age and for those that have children with are know children with asthma. I'm all for jobs however, I do realize that I do not live alone in this world and I'm wise enough to know that everything in this world is not about me and that I should put others well being ahead of my own. I'm against this plant.

Regina Smith

8262

478-232-~~88~~

8973 Tennille-Oconee Road
Tennille, Ga. 31089

african-que93658@bellsouth.net

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OCT 28 2009

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OCT 26 2009

Environmental Protection
Director's Office

Oct 22, 2009

Dear EPA, PROTECTION BRANCH

Please do not allow Plant Washington to be built. The last thing we need in Georgia is another dirty coal plant. The energy will not be needed. You must know that the nuclear plant is being expanded and energy efficiency is already proving to be the answer to lowering usage. Look at all the other states stopping coal plants because it is not a sound investment for the future. Our rivers are already in danger of being so polluted with mercury that it is unsafe to even eat the fish. I'm sure you know now from the hearing held Oct. 20 that this is a concern statewide & not just in Washington County. I can't believe this can be allowed to happen without hearings being conducted in all areas across the state. Please think of your children and those coming generations that will suffer from our mistakes if we don't stop polluting our environment & ruining our eco-systems.

Sincerely,
Clare Weathers
478-451-5078

